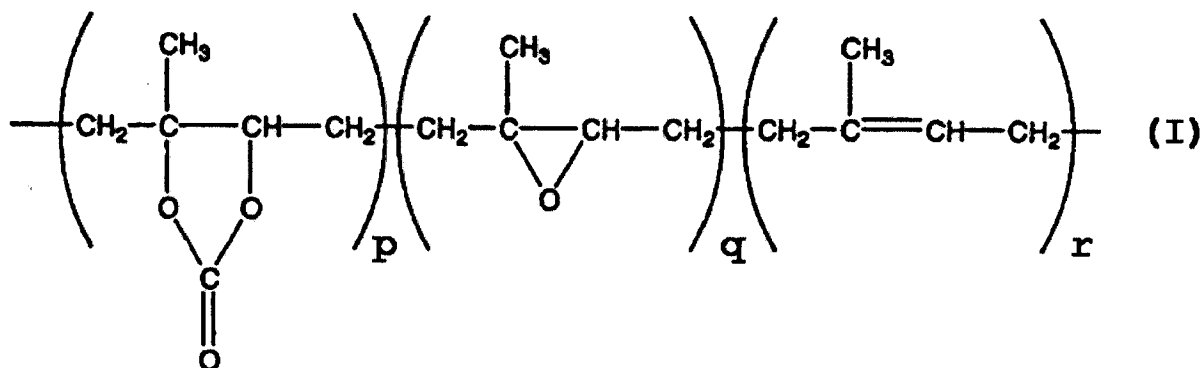


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A cyclic carbonate-containing polymeric compound consisting essentially of a polymeric compound represented by formula (I):



wherein p, q, and r independently represent the molar composition ratio of each monomer unit: p is a number over 0; q and r are each a number not smaller than 0; and the sum of p, q, and r is 1.

2. (Previously Presented) A method for producing the cyclic carbonate-containing polymeric compound according to claim 1 comprising:

- deproteinizing natural rubber;
- epoxidizing the deproteinized natural rubber; and
- allowing the epoxidized deproteinized natural rubber to react with supercritical carbon dioxide.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the step of allowing the epoxidized deproteinized natural rubber to react with supercritical carbon dioxide is carried out in the presence of a polar organic solvent and/or an ionic liquid.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein the polar organic solvent is at least one member selected from the group consisting of N,N-dimethylformamide, N,N-diethylformamide, N,N-dimethylacetamide, N,N-diethylacetamide, and N-methylpyrrolidone.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein the ionic liquid is at least one member selected from the group consisting of 3-methyl-1-octylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate, 1-hexyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate, 1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate, 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate, 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium hexafluorophosphate, and 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium trifluoromethanesulfate.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the step of allowing the epoxidized deproteinized natural rubber to react with supercritical carbon dioxide is carried out at a reaction temperature between 50° C. and 200° C.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the step of allowing the epoxidized deproteinized natural rubber to react with supercritical carbon

dioxide is carried out at a supercritical carbon dioxide pressure of between 5 MPa and 20 MPa.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the step of allowing the epoxidized deproteinized natural rubber to react with supercritical carbon dioxide is carried out for 0.5 hour to 20 hours.

9. (New) The method according to claim 2, further comprising liquefying the deproteinized natural rubber or the epoxidized deproteinized natural rubber via depolymerization.